

FOSSIL LIMPET FROM THE CRETACEOUS OF NORTH QUEENSLAND. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 51(2): 398. 2005- Fossil limpets have a very poor pre-Tertiary record within Australia with *Siphonaria samwelli* Etheridge, 1892, from the Early Cretaceous of north Queensland the only binomially ascribed taxon and two other in very open nomenclature from the Late Cretaceous of Western Australia (Darragh & Kendrick, 1994). Collection of material by Mr Paul Tierney, from the Coffin Hill Member of the Gilbert River Formation, has provided a large number of limpet specimens allowing review of Etheridge's species. Material is derived from Mount Angus near Croydon, NQ, where the Coffin Hill Member of the Gilbert River Fm overlies Proterozoic granitoids forming small silica-rich duricrusts atop mesas. These units are interpreted to represent nearshore sandy bottom and reworked rocky shore communities based on their gross sedimentology and proximity to basin margin and basement. A rich mollusc fauna with sparse brachiopods is known from this locality. Burger (1986) suggested a Hauterivian- Barremian age for the Coffin Hill Mbr in well holes BMR Gilberton 2, Richmond 3 and GSQ Hughenden 7 placing it within the *Foraminisporus wonthaggiensis* and *Murospora florida* spore pollen zones corresponding to his cycles 5a-b. Dinoflagellate studies of Oosting (2004) placed the unit within the lower Aptian which more comfortably accommodates the macrofauna present in the Croydon area.

Suborder PATELLINA von Ihering, 1876
Superfamily PATELLOIDEA Rafinesque, 1815
Family ACMAEIDAE Carpenter, 1857
Scurriopsis Gemmellaro, 1879

Type species. *S. neumayri*, from the Jurassic of Sicily.

Scurriopsis samwelli (Etheridge, 1892)

Siphonaria samwelli Etheridge in Jack & Etheridge, 1892: 573, pl. 42, fig. 9.

Material examined. Holotype GSQF1335. QMF44659-QMF44671 from Mount Angus, NE of Croydon, NQ. All are external moulds.

Description. Shell conical, bilaterally symmetrical, imperforate, elliptical in outline, wider posteriorly; apex towards anterior, one third distance along shell length; up to 24 mm wide, 33 mm long and 9 mm high. Ornament of two orders of radial ribs commencing on the apex extending to form a crenulate margin; four or five stronger ribs on the posterior shell, two or three on the anterior a little weaker; second order ribs only slightly stronger than most fine concentric growth lines which form by intersection of a reticulate network. Growth lines mostly fine, but sporadic and irregularly spaced coarser rugae. Stronger in some specimens than others. Slit absent. Protoconch unknown, muscle scars unknown.

Remarks. The imperforate shell shown by ornament on the apex places the material in the Patelina. Ornament and apex placement suggests affinities to the Acmaeidae and the height to length ratio suggest placement in *Scurriopsis*. Type taxa of constituent subgenera lack the strong ornament of the present material, but other species demonstrate such ornament. *Scurriopsis* (*S.*) *aptiana* Kase 1984 (p.50, pl. 2, figs 1-3) has such ornament but has a more centrally located apex. The material is reminiscent of *Patella* (s.l.) *miyakoensis* Kase 1984 (p. 54 pl. 2, figs 4-5) from the Lower Cretaceous (Aptian) Hiraiga Fm, of Japan, which has similar ornament but a more central apex.

Literature cited

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Fig.1. *Scurriopsis samwelli* (Etheridge, 1892). A. QMF44659, apical view x 1.5. B,C. QMF44671 side and apical views x1.5. D, QMF44673, apical view x 1.5.